



April 23, 2004

Investment advisor sentenced for defrauding clients

A federal judge today sentenced **Tomma Botelho**, of West Warwick, to 18 months in prison for defrauding two investment clients. Botelho, who is also known as Tomma Grimshaw, was a vice-president of Richard C. Young & Co., Ltd, when she defrauded an 85-year old man and the estate of a deceased woman by withdrawing their investment funds for her own use.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Smith also ordered Botelho to make restitution of \$93,688 to her victims. Botelho, 31, of 27 Juniper Drive, West Warwick, must report to prison in 30 days to begin serving her sentence.

In February, Botelho pleaded guilty to federal mail fraud charges. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that, between 2001 and July 2003, Botelho used her position as an investment advisor to fraudulently request withdrawal of clients' funds. She diverted the funds to her own personal accounts. At sentencing today, Botelho said she used the money for personal expenses, including a \$20,000 landscaping project at her home.

The **United States Postal Inspection Service** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose prosecuted it.

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